

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 40 and 52-54, as follows.

For the Examiner's convenience, remaining pending claims 41-51 and 55-60 are also listed below. Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."

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40. (**Once amended**) An isolated polynucleotide comprising a polynucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- a) a polynucleotide sequence encoding an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO:4,
- b) a polynucleotide sequence encoding a naturally-occurring amino acid sequence which hybridizes under stringent conditions to the full length of a),
- c) a polynucleotide sequence fully complementary along its length to a),
- d) a polynucleotide sequence fully complementary along its length to b), and
- e) a ribonucleotide equivalent of a)-d).

41. (**Reiterated.**) An isolated polynucleotide of claim 40, having a sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

42. (**Reiterated.**) An isolated polynucleotide of claim 40, having a sequence of SEQ ID NO:3.

43. (**Reiterated.**) An isolated polypeptide encoded by a polynucleotide of claim 40.

44. (**Reiterated.**) An isolated polypeptide of claim 43, having a sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

45. (**Reiterated.**) An isolated polypeptide of claim 43, having a sequence of SEQ ID NO:4.

46. (**Reiterated.**) A recombinant polynucleotide comprising a promoter sequence operably linked to a polynucleotide of claim 40.

47. (**Reiterated.**) A cell transformed with a recombinant polynucleotide of claim 46.

48. **(Reiterated.)** A method for producing a polypeptide, the method comprising:

- a) culturing a cell under conditions suitable for expression of the polypeptide, wherein said cell is transformed with a recombinant polynucleotide of claim 46, and
- b) recovering the polypeptide so expressed.

49. **(Reiterated.)** A method of claim 48, wherein the polypeptide has the sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

50. **(Reiterated.)** A method of claim 48, wherein the polypeptide has the sequence of SEQ ID NO:4.

51. **(Reiterated.)** An isolated antibody which specifically binds to a polypeptide of claim 43.

52. **(Once amended.)** An isolated polynucleotide comprising a sequence selected from the group consisting of:

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- a) a polynucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:3,
 - b) a naturally-occurring polynucleotide sequence which hybridizes under stringent conditions to the full sequence of a),
 - c) a polynucleotide sequence fully complementary along its length to a),
 - d) a polynucleotide sequence fully complementary along its length to b), and
 - e) a ribonucleotide equivalent of a)-d).

53. **(Once amended.)** A method for detecting a target polynucleotide in a sample, said target polynucleotide having a sequence of a polynucleotide of claim 52, the method comprising:

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- a) hybridizing the sample with a probe comprising at least 20 contiguous nucleotides, said probe comprising a sequence complementary to said target polynucleotide in the sample, and which said probe specifically hybridizes to said target polynucleotide, under conditions whereby a hybridization complex is formed between said probe and said target polynucleotide or fragments thereof, and
 - b) detecting the presence or absence of said hybridization complex, and, optionally, if present, the amount thereof; wherein the amount of hybridization complex corresponds to the amount of target polynucleotide in the sample.

54. **(Once amended.)** A method for detecting a target polynucleotide in a sample, said target polynucleotide having a sequence of a polynucleotide of claim 52, the method comprising:

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- a) amplifying said target polynucleotide or fragment thereof using polymerase chain reaction amplification, and
 - b) detecting the presence or absence of said amplified target polynucleotide or fragment thereof, and, optionally, if present, the amount thereof; wherein the amount of amplified polynucleotide corresponds to the amount of target polynucleotide in the sample.
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55. **(Reiterated.)** A composition comprising a polypeptide of claim 43 and an acceptable excipient.

56. **(Reiterated.)** A composition of claim 55, wherein the polypeptide has the sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

57. **(Reiterated.)** A composition of claim 55, wherein the polypeptide has the sequence of SEQ ID NO:4.

58. **(Reiterated.)** A method for screening a compound for effectiveness as an agonist of a polypeptide of claim 43, the method comprising:

- a) exposing a sample comprising a polypeptide of claim 43 to a compound, and
- b) detecting agonist activity in the sample.

59. **(Reiterated.)** A method for screening a compound for effectiveness as an antagonist of a polypeptide of claim 43, the method comprising:

- a) exposing a sample comprising a polypeptide of claim 43 to a compound, and
- b) detecting antagonist activity in the sample.

60. **(Reiterated.)** A method for screening a compound for effectiveness in altering expression of a target polynucleotide, wherein said target polynucleotide comprises a polynucleotide sequence of claim 52, the method comprising:

- a) exposing a sample comprising the target polynucleotide to a compound, under conditions suitable for the expression of the target polynucleotide,

- b) detecting altered expression of the target polynucleotide, and
- c) comparing the expression of the target polynucleotide in the presence of varying amounts of the compound and in the absence of the compound.